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Department of
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Major News Releases and Speeches

Aug. 12 - Aug. 19, 1983

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Remarks

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Governmental and Public Affairs

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Prepared for delivery by Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block before the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America, Washington, D.C., Aug. 16.

Seeds, soil and world affairs.

Not too many years ago a topic like that would have raised a few heads, and maybe even a few today. But I know what you're getting at. And I can't think of a more appropriate topic for a national convention of your three professional societies—especially in light of current events.

I'm reminded of an incident some years ago, in one of our state legislatures, when a proposal was made to raise the faculty salaries at a small agricultural college.

The debate was getting heated. Some key urban legislators were strongly opposed to the action. As one city lawmaker put it: "Why should we give a raise to someone who does nothing except talk for 12 or 15 hours a week?"

Finally, one of the rural lawmakers stood up with a bit of common sense. "Gentlemen," he said. "Look at it this way. A college professor is a little bit like a bull on the farm. It's not the amount of time he spends... it's the importance of what he does."

With that, the pay raises were approved.

There's a similarity in that story—at least, I hope there is—to your concerns about seeds and soil. I guess most Americans probably wouldn't rank seeds and soil as very important in the politics of world affairs.

But as you and I both know—it's the importance of what those seeds do when planted in the soil that makes them so important throughout the world.

I recall a quote which has been used quite often, but I think hits the nail on the head: "An empty stomach is the worst political adviser in the world ... but the stomach is acting as secretary of state for half the population of the globe today."

Current conditions in Ethiopia provide a prime example. Thousands must scrounge daily for something to eat. Many fail. Yet when food aid is sent, it often sits stranded at ports of entry.

Similar conditions—though not as drastic—can be found in many of the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

My purpose today is not to shock you. But the issue of world hunger has been in the news quite a bit recently—and rightfully so. It's a serious problem—and we must talk about both the consequences and the solutions.

Recently, I headed the American delegation to the ninth ministerial meeting of the World Food Council. This is the highest level policy-oriented body within the food and agricultural network of the United Nations.

Prior to our meeting in New York City, I hosted many of my fellow agriculture ministers at my farm in Illinois. We had a good visit—talking about farming practices and modern equipment that are common to many farms across this great nation of ours.

At the farm—and later during the official council sessions at the United Nations—I emphasized that the United States shares the council's commitment to improving the supply of wholesome, nutritious food for consumers in every country.

We also support the council's efforts to help developing nations design and carry out their own national food sector strategies.

Africa is a special concern. We all know that solving its problems is a lot more complex than simply giving away more food. Storage, transportation and distribution conditions frequently tend to work against our best efforts to deliver food to those who are most in need.

In Africa—as in other places—we must ensure that our assistance does not undermine agricultural development ... and that we avoid fostering a dangerous level of dependence instead of self-reliance.

As we strive to achieve food security throughout the world, we must increasingly encourage other countries to concentrate on using their comparative advantage. By that I mean they should produce what they

grow best. When they cannot economically produce certain crops, they should buy those commodities from other nations who can.

And along the same line, we see countries with the technology that developing nations need to enhance their comparative advantage. These countries must be willing to export that technology. And, that's where your disciplines can continue to play a vital role in our global agriculture.

I can assure you—just as I reassured my fellow ministers—that the United States will generously share its agricultural technology with food deficit countries.

As I see it, there are three challenges before the agricultural research community in our efforts to cope with the needs of a global food system.

First, we must maintain our proven levels of productivity through the prompt transfer of new knowledge and research findings. We must orient our thinking to the future—because tomorrow's problems cannot be solved with yesterday's techniques.

Computer technology and other innovations in communications and transportation are changing the world food distribution system almost daily. Those changes are bringing the world closer and closer together.

Second, we must intensify our efforts to develop and use the new technologies that promise to accelerate our quest for world food security. As you know—thanks to scientists like yourselves—we're on the threshold of some dramatic new developments to improve the physical and nutritional characteristics of plants and livestock.

In USDA, our shifting emphasis in plant research provides a good illustration of the broad changes now underway. USDA has traditionally and primarily been concerned with conventional plant breeding procedures.

But today, much of this research is being taken over by the private sector. Federal research is being phased out of conventional plant breeding programs where the private sector can meet the needs. That releases funding for basic research in plant genetics.

Plans call for a larger share of the federal research dollar to be targeted at this basic research for increasing plant yields. In other words, it will be targeted at genetic engineering. The same developments would apply to the state experiment stations.

The third major challenge to agricultural research, now and in the decades ahead, is the development of scientific expertise. All of us need to address ourselves to the development of our nation's human capital. It is the only way we will maintain a cost-effective and competitive agriculture.

If we can respond successfully to these three challenges, I'm confident that the dawn of the next century will see a new level of excellence achieved by the American agricultural research community.

In a keynote address on the future of agriculture, Arturo Tanco—the minister of agriculture for the Philippines—said: "We cannot hope for peace in a world where nearly one-fourth of humanity goes hungry every day—where one-eighth of the world's population is severely malnourished."

One cannot disagree with his perspective. If we are to resolve the issues of world affairs, we must first provide the fertile seeds and soils. We must satisfy the basic want of the human stomach.

I commend you on the work you have accomplished. And I compliment you for addressing the important issues of tomorrow. I wish you much success.

Thank you.

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News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Governmental and Public Affairs

USDA ESTABLISHES TRIAL STANDARDS FOR AMERICAN UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has established trial standards for American Upland cotton that provide a "Strict Good Ordinary Spotted" physical standard and a "Strict Good Ordinary Light Spotted" descriptive standard.

Vern F. Highley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the standards will provide a more accurate description of certain cotton that is now classified as "Below Grade."

He said that while the annual amount of "Below Grade" cotton adds up to less than one percent of the crop, some cotton producing areas grow significant amounts of this cotton from time to time.

USDA also will adopt a six-sample box as the standard size instead of the 12-sample box now in use. The trial standards and the sample boxes will become effective Aug. 16, 1984, Highley said. The trial standards will be published in the Aug. 16 Federal Register.

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UNITED STATES-VENEZUELA COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE TO BE FORMED

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block and Venezuela's Minister of Agriculture Nydia Villegas have announced the creation of a U.S.-Venezuelan Commission on Agriculture to consider agricultural issues of interest to both countries.

The commission will hold its first meeting in October in Caracas to discuss sharing agricultural information and statistics, agricultural marketing, cooperative research, agricultural technology and improvement of agricultural insurance in Venezuela.

The commission also will help implement recommendations of the Presidential Agricultural Task Force which visited Venezuela in November 1982.

Clarence Palmby, former under secretary of agriculture who led the agricultural task force, will serve as co-president of the commission. His counterpart is Dr. Antonio Jose Villegas, former rector of the Simon Bolivar University and a recognized agricultural researcher.

Three teams of USDA technicians will visit Venezuela in September to provide advice and assistance in the areas of market information, agricultural census, agricultural credit administration, fruit and vegetable packaging and statistical surveys related to agriculture.

The meeting between Block and Villegas took place last week as part of a series of initiatives resulting from the meeting of President Luis Herrera Campins and President Reagan in 1981, in Cancun, Mexico. Ministerial level meetings have taken place in Caracas, New York and Washington.

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USDA SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL ON COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12—The U.S. Department of Agriculture and Brazil's national agricultural research organization have signed an agreement to cooperate closely in agricultural activities involving research, science and technology.

The agreement also provides for scientific exchanges, grants to agricultural scientists and students, and joint sponsorship scientific conferences.

Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture Alan Tracy and Eliseu Roberto de Andrade Alves, president of the research group, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. Tracy is accompanying Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block on his tour of five Latin American countries.

Under the ministry-to-ministry agreement, the United States and Brazil will exchange plant and animal germplasm to improve the quality of crops and animals. The two countries also will share information and methodologies used in genetic engineering, pest control, animal health, soil science and energy related to agriculture.

USDA's Office of International Cooperation and Development will coordinate activities with Brazilian researchers. The agency's administrator, Joan S. Wallace, said her agency has carried out several exchanges with Brazil since 1980, the latest of which involved fire ant research and the study of land use and agricultural cooperation and were completed this past spring.

Five cooperative research projects sponsored by the Office of International Cooperation and Development are in progress now at four Brazilian universities under a linkage program involving U.S. and Brazilian institutions.

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USDA PROPOSES CHARGING USER FEES FOR COTTON WAREHOUSE SERVICES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today proposed charging cotton warehouses licensed under the U.S. Warehouse Act user fees for all services beginning Oct. 1.

The fees would be based on the number of bales handled and the number of bales in storage, plus a basic fee of \$200 per warehouse.

James Springfield, warehouse official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the fees are needed to cover the costs of administering and supervising the licensing, examination and inspection services for cotton warehouses.

"Other commodity warehouses licensed under the act began user fees Oct. 1, 1981," Springfield said. "However, Congress exempted cotton warehouses and appropriated funds to continue all USDA services through Sept. 30. No appropriated funds are available to continue the services during the new fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1."

User fees for commodity warehouses were mandated under provisions of the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981. The act directed the secretary of agriculture to take any action needed to insure the preservation of licensing and inspection procedures for cotton warehouses, Springfield said.

The proposed fees are expected to yield about \$300,000 annually. The Commodity Credit Corporation will pay an additional \$100,000 for examination services for its cotton in storage.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service is authorized under the Warehouse Act to collect fees for every examination or inspection of a warehouse when the service is requested by a warehouse operator. Reasonable fees for this voluntary service have been collected since 1969. No other fees were authorized or collected until passage of the Omnibus Reconciliation Act.

The proposed rule change and fees will be published in the Aug. 18 Federal Register, available at many public libraries. Comments will be accepted by USDA through Sept. 16. Send comments to Orval Kerchner, Warehouse Development Branch, Warehouse Division, rm. 2720-S, AMS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250; phone: (202) 447-3616.

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10 ARRESTED IN EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL., FOOD STAMP INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16—Ten people were arrested in East St. Louis, Ill., for receiving nearly \$188,000 in illegal food stamp and other welfare benefits, U.S. Department of Agriculture Inspector General John V. Graziano said today.

The arrest warrants were issued to St. Clair County State Attorney John Baricevic and served by the staff of Sheriff Merele Justus, based on investigations by USDA's Office of Inspector General. Warrants for the arrest of two other persons are outstanding.

All of those charged were identified by a computer match of persons receiving welfare benefits in Illinois, while working in Missouri. The computer match was part of the USDA Chicago Office of Inspector General's contribution to a President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency project for detecting fraud in government programs.

Graziano commended the St. Clair County state attorney's office and the St. Clair County sheriff's department for their roles in the investigations. "Those staffs have shown how the federal, state and

local governments working together can attack fraud, waste and abuse in government programs," Graziano said.

Persons convicted of the charges face imprisonment for two to five years and fines up to \$10,000.

#

VIDEO AND COMPUTER PREDICT LEAN, FAT MEAT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17—A video camera and computer are telling meat researchers how much lean and fat meat are in beef carcasses.

At the experimental stage now, the video-computer analysis may become a new electronic technique for meat grading by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said Terry B. Kinney, Jr., administrator of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Kinney said the system, called a visual image analyzer, could help the meat industry assure consumers they will get the leanness in beef they desire.

That's because the automated technique may offer a new degree of accuracy and consistency in predicting the lean and fat content in beef, reported H. Russell Cross, food technologist at the research agency's Roman L. Hruska Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Neb.

In laboratory tests, the technique was estimated to be 93.6 percent accurate in its measurements of the lean and fat content of the ninth, tenth and eleventh ribs of the carcass, which is an indicator of its leanness.

USDA meat graders, in the current system, measure visible areas of lean and fat of the twelfth and thirteenth ribs and then apply an equation to predict the total content. This conventional way of determining the same measurement was 84 percent accurate.

Similar studies on a larger scale in meat packing houses are needed, Cross said, to confirm the analyzer's accuracy and speed.

Cross said the analyzer resulted from several years of research on automating meat grading. Collaborating in the work were Clay Center animal scientists and Kansas State University engineers who developed the analyzer under a contract with the research agency.

What the camera sees is converted by the computer into numerical codes for fat, lean and marbled portions of the meat.

Cross said the analyzer "did an excellent job" of duplicating lean and fat measurements. It was precise 97 percent of the time in measuring total fat areas and 98 percent for total lean areas. For counting marbling pieces and measuring subcutaneous fat thickness, results suggest that repeated handling of carcasses may reduce the precision.

Used so far only in the laboratory, the analyzer's video camera, monitor, data terminal and computer may be adaptable for meat packing plants, Cross said. As few or as many kinds of measurements as necessary may be made, he said, in using the automated technique for meat grading.

#

BLOCK TO SIGN NEW LONG-TERM GRAIN TRADE AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET UNION

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Aug. 17—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block will travel to Moscow in late August to officially sign a new long-term grain trade agreement with the Soviet Union.

The signing ceremony will take place in Moscow Aug. 25.

U.S. officials accompanying Block include: Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer, deputy U.S. trade representative, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative; Richard McCormick, assistant secretary for economic and business affairs, U.S. Department of State; and USDA Under Secretary Daniel G. Amstutz.

"I'm very pleased that we were able to reach agreement and maintain our agricultural trading relationship with the Soviet Union," Block said. "This will result in increased exports and assurance the USSR will continue being a major purchaser of grain grown by U.S. farmers."

The agreement, which was agreed to July 28, will commence Oct. 1 and extend for five years. Under its terms the Soviet Union will purchase from the U.S. a minimum of 9 million metric tons of wheat and corn annually.

Up to 1 million tons of the minimum could be satisfied by Soviet purchases of 500,000 metric tons of soybeans and/or soybean meal. If the soybean/soybean meal option is exercised in any year, the minimum of wheat and corn for that year will be 8 million metric tons. But in no case will the minimum on either wheat or corn be less than 4 million tons each.

During any year of the agreement the Soviet Union may purchase an additional 3 million tons of wheat and corn in addition to the 9 million tons without prior consultation.

The current agreement that expires Sept. 30 calls for a minimum annual purchase of 6 million tons of wheat and corn by the Soviet Union and provides an option for the Soviet Union to purchase an additional 2 million tons per year.

The delegation will leave Washington, D.C. on Aug. 23 and return Aug. 26.

#

USDA PROTECTS NINE NEW PLANT VARIETIES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection for new varieties of cauliflower, festulolium, Kentucky bluegrass, muskmelon, soybean and watermelon.

Thomas H. Porter, an official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce their products in the United States for 18 years. USDA grants certificates of protection after a review of the breeders' records and claims determines that each new variety is novel, uniform and stable.

Two newly protected cauliflower varieties are Andes and Cervina developed by Royal Sluis, Enkhuizen, Holland. Two new varieties of watermelon are Bush Jubilee and Bush Charleston Gray, developed by Musser Seed Co., Inc., Twin Falls, Idaho.

Kentucky bluegrass varieties protected are Georgetown, developed by Lofts Seed Inc., Bound Brook, N.J., and Midnight, developed by Pure-Seed Testing, Inc., Hubbard, Ore.

Other varieties protected are Tandem festulolium—a forage-type grass—developed by D.J. van der Have B.V. Kapelle, Holland; Musketeer muskmelon developed by Goldsmith Seeds, Inc., Gilroy, Calif.; and L4207 soybean developed by Land O'Lakes, Inc., Webster City, Iowa.

The plant variety protection program is administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service and provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

#

COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INSTRUMENT STANDARDS TO MEET SEPT. 29

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18—The Advisory Committee on Instrument Standards for Cotton will meet Sept. 29 at 8 a.m. in Clemson, S.C., to continue its work of developing recommendations for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at Sirrine Hall, School of Textiles, Clemson University.

Vern F. Highley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the committee will discuss several technical issues relating to instrument standards that were not resolved at a meeting held in March.

The 14-member committee is comprised of representatives of cotton growers, ginner, merchants, cooperatives, textile manufacturers, the warehouse industry and the research community.

Although the session is open to the public, Highley said public participation will be limited to written statements submitted prior to the meeting. Statements should be sent to: Jesse F. Moore, Cotton Division, Rm. 302, Annex Bldg., USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Clemson University will hold a seminar Sept. 28 at 1:30 p.m. in conjunction with the advisory committee meeting. The seminar is

designed primarily for manufacturers and will focus on the use of instrument measures in laying down mill mixes.

#

USDA TRANSFERS FOREIGN DAIRY DONATION ACTIVITY TO AID

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has transferred major activities of the federal program to donate government-owned surplus dairy products to needy people in foreign countries to the Agency for International Development, according to Under Secretary of Agriculture Daniel G. Amstutz.

The transfer does not affect the domestic dairy donation program.

Amstutz said the change will take advantage of AID's international capacity to administer the program. USDA will retain the responsibility for determining the types and quantities of dairy products and the level of funds available for payment for donated dairy products, processing, domestic transporting and overseas freight, where appropriate, to export the products, he said.

Authority for both domestic and foreign donations of dairy products is contained in Section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949.

Since USDA signed the first agreement this year, donations of dairy products now total over 83,000 tons, going to 14 countries. Such donations have been made through foreign governments and public and nonprofit private humanitarian organizations.

Under provisions of the transfer, all new proposals for Section 416 agreements will be handled by AID's Bureau for Food for Peace and Voluntary Assistance, 320 21st St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20523.

#

SCIENTISTS FIND FUNGUS CAN HELP WHEAT RESIST DROUGHT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18—A fungus that lives in the roots of wheat may play a role in helping wheat crops survive periods of drought, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist said today.

USDA microbiologist James R. Ellis said the fungus, known as vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizae, has been known for years, but now has been found to nourish wheat plants so they have a better chance of surviving dry spells.

The fungus takes up moisture and nutrients from the soil for wheat plants to use, said Ellis, who works for USDA's Agricultural Research Service at Lincoln, Neb. With the fungus, grain yields in experiments simulating drought were twice that of wheat without the fungus.

Ellis said the fungus gets its nourishment from wheat plants and, in fact, cannot grow without the plant. The fungus has filaments (fine root hairs) that penetrate plant roots and act as an extension of the wheat's root system.

"Vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizae-infected wheat survived more frequent and longer periods of drought stress" than wheat free of the fungus," Ellis said. He and University of Nebraska co-researchers discovered the drought tolerance in greenhouse studies.

"What lies ahead is new research to determine how to transfer this benefit to field-grown wheat," said Terry B. Kinney, Jr., administrator of the research agency.

If the fungus can be used to fight drought, "it could spell considerable savings in lost wheat, and possibly other grains, in times like this summer's dry weather," said Kinney. Vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizae fungi help sorghum and grass to grow.

Filaments of the fungus, said Ellis, have few cell walls, so they rapidly move water and nutrients from the soil to the plants to help plants recover quickly from drought stress.

Within the soil, the fungi's fine hairs can penetrate places where roots cannot, said Ellis. As a result, the fungus makes available to the plant a lot more water and other nutrients, especially phosphorous, than it otherwise would get.

In the greenhouse study, the researchers grew wheat in sterile soil four feet deep so they could avoid growth conditions where roots become restricted and could inoculate soil with the strains of the vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizae they wanted to study.

Ellis said the findings show that two common vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizae fungi, *Glomus deserticolum* and *G. fasciculatum*, prevented water-stressed wheat from having severely lowered yields.

"We've also found that some fungi are a little lazy, while others are more active," said Ellis. "They have different abilities and that's why we're looking for a superfungus."

"If we find one," he said, "we would need to learn what cultural practices make it compete well with other vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizae found in nature."

How much plants are infected may depend on the plant's need for them, Ellis said. Apparently, vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizae and plants interact to control infection, he said, in a way that keeps the plant's biological system from wasting energy.

In areas where soil is low in fertility, vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizae also helps plants overcome deficiencies in trace minerals like manganese, iron and copper, Ellis said. Soils have a big reservoir of these minerals, but these minerals may be difficult for plants to take up because they are tied up by the soil's structure.

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NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE TO MEET SEPT. 13-14

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18—The general conference committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan will meet here at 9 a.m. Sept. 13 and 14 in room 5699 of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's South Building.

The plan is a voluntary state-federal cooperative effort to improve poultry and poultry products by controlling certain egg-transmitted and hatchery-disseminated poultry diseases.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture C.W. McMillan is chairman of the committee, which reviews the operation of the plan's program and recommends needed changes. Members represent the industry and the scientific community from six geographic areas and one member serves at large. Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service coordinate the plan.

McMillan said the committee will develop and review possible amendments to plan provisions, review resolutions, advise on policy for reporting diseases, respond to questions on proposed plan changes, consider ways of cooperating with the pet bird industry and recommend members for an industry steering committee.

The meeting will end by noon Sept. 14.

The committee also may recommend proposals to the Biennial National Plan Conference, which will meet June 26-28, 1984, in St. Paul, Minn., to observe the 50th anniversary of the plan.

The Sept. 13-14 meetings are open to the public. Written comments may be submitted before or at the meeting to Ray D. Schar, APHIS Veterinary Services, room 828, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Rd., Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Phone: (301) 436-5140.

General Conference Committee National Poultry Improvement Plan

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USDA TO SPONSOR AGRICULTURAL MARKETING WORKSHOP FOR CARIBBEAN BASIN

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will sponsor an agricultural marketing workshop Sept. 26 - 29 for U.S. and Caribbean agribusiness companies that want to do business in the Caribbean region. Public and private marketing managers from Caribbean Basin countries will meet in Miami, Fla., to take part in the 4-day program.

Workshop sessions will cover trade policies, marketing for export to Europe and the United States, grading and import standards for agricultural products and information on marketing news and marketing orders.

Other subjects include maintaining post-harvest quality of agricultural products; plant, animal and food safety; the marketing of flowers, plants and spices; and the potential for growing non-traditional crops in the tropics.

The workshop is co-sponsored by USDA's Office of International Cooperation and Development and Agribusiness Promotion Council, which serves as an advisory group to Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block.

Joan S. Wallace, administrator of the Office of International Cooperation and Development, said the workshop is designed as a practical introduction to agricultural marketing opportunities for both U.S. and Caribbean companies and is in keeping with President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative.

Wallace said the last day of the workshop will provide a special opportunity for producers from Caribbean Basin countries to meet with buyers from U.S. retail food chains, wholesale commission firms and food processors to discuss possible business opportunities.

USDA will arrange field trips to produce centers, warehouses, retail supermarkets, a wholesale meat processing plant, trade facilities at Miami International Airport and port facilities, Wallace said.

Registration materials are available from the USDA Agribusiness Office, Room 4102 Auditors Building, Washington, D.C. 20250, or by phoning (202) 447-2015.

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USDA DONATES FOOD FOR TEXAS HURRICANE VICTIMS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19—The U.S. Department of Agriculture yesterday donated over 48,000 pounds of foods to Texas relief agencies for the estimated 20,000 Hurricane Alicia refugees along the Texas Gulf Coast.

"Disaster food assistance teams from USDA's Food and Nutrition Service have been on the scene since noon Thursday to support Texas Department of Human Resources personnel and to assure a continued flow of donated foods during the disaster operation," said John W. Bode, deputy assistant secretary of agriculture for food and consumer services.

"During any natural disaster of this type, foods normally used in the school lunch and breakfast programs may be diverted on request to disaster use by official relief agencies," said Bode. "USDA then works with local school officials and state governments to replace the foods drawn from school lunch supplies. In Texas we provided 20 food items, including canned beef, canned pork, peanut butter, applesauce, grapefruit juice, cheese, honey and rice."

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